



## **FFAST Meeting Friday, March 11, 2005**

### **Attendees:**

John Gould – BIA

Al King – NPS

Ed Hollenshead – USFS

Michelle Ryerson – BLM

Sarah Fisher – USFS

### **Firefighter Liability**

Michelle discussed the recent conference call with DOI Solicitor's re: the definition of "scope of duty", liability of ICs, et. al. when something goes wrong on an incident, and what records the Inspector General is entitled to when completing an OIG investigation. Much discussion has been had re: interviews during initial safety investigations being utilized against employees during other investigations. The DOI Solicitor's office in DC will research the option of applying the Reverse Garrity Warning to wildland fire. Currently this warning exists for law enforcement officers, allowing them to participate in other investigative procedures without their statements being used against them in criminal proceedings. **Ed will contact OGC to see if they can do the same kind of research for Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the DOI Solicitor's office.**

FFAST members discussed the need for basic questions to be answered by the Fire Directors that would help provide guidance to the field re: liability, investigations, etc. **Ed will send his draft questions to the group for review and comment.** FFAST will then discuss the mechanism for sending forth.

### **All-Risk Proposal**

No progress to date. Ed & Rod will try to have something for the group to discuss at the next FFAST meeting.

### **Fallen Firefighter Foundation**

Mike Apicello is serving as the liaison to this foundation and has been in contact with Ron Swarnicki.

### **NIOSH Symposium**

Al will not be attending. There will be a conference call and Internet meeting on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00am from the symposium. Al will participate on the call. Any other FFAST members are welcome to do so if they choose.

## **WFSTAR**

Website is up and going. Agreement has been made that the BLM training group will receive \$60,000 to takeover the video for 2006 while NWCG decides the future of the program and where it will be assigned.

## **Medical Standards**

Program Analyst position (assistant to Kevin Jensen) is still in the works. Position has been classified by BLM and NPS but FS will now provide the FTE. It is unclear if FS will be able to use one of the already classified PDs or have to go through the process separately.

FFAST members are in agreement that a photo I.D. will be required when employees show up at the doctor's office for their med standards physical. **John will send a note to Kevin.**

## **ATV Issues**

BLM is moving towards an interim policy for base training and additional modules that employees will take, based on specific duties and ATV usage needs. They are also working on an equipment specification matrix, which will give recommendations on what to buy based on what the need is. **Michelle will send copies of these items to FFAST members when complete.** BLM is also working with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor to do a stability study.

## **Refresher Training Proposal**

No progress to date.

## **Interagency HSQ**

Ed has sent the DOI HSQ to Brian Sharkey to review and has not heard back yet. **Ed will check with Brian to see if he has looked at the HSQ and find out if it will work for the FS as well or if it needs improvement.** Goal is to move to one, interagency HSQ form.

## **Fitness Program**

John has received some pocket guides from Bequi Livingston. FFAST members agreed this is an initiative they would like to work on. **Members will bring all the materials they have for fitness programs and physical training to the next meeting for discussion.**

## **Aviation Platform and LCES**

Discussion was had re: the use of the aviation platform as a lookout to meet LCES. FFAST members agreed this is not appropriate as a sole source lookout.

- **John will write up bullet statement to add to Six Minutes for Safety re: LCES.**
- **Ed will pursue adding language to the LCES section of the IRPG.**
- **Michelle will pursue adding language to the Red Book.**

**FS Driver's License Issue**

BLM is looking at reinstituting the DOI Driver's License (346) to validate BLM employees have had training and are certified to operate FS vehicles. Other DOI agencies will probably look to do the same thing.

**Holmes Fatality Report**

NPS Investigation Report is complete and is going through the approval process right now. NPS did receive a citation from OSHA stating they violated the Logging Standards of not allowing an employee within two tree lengths of a hazard tree. NPS is following up with OSHA.

**Weather Updates**

John feels there is no good way to get local fire weather forecasts for firefighters on the ground. He is interested in pursuing an initiative that would set up a phone system for line personnel to call in with cell phones (if they have coverage) and go through a touch-tone system that would allow them to obtain the most current weather for their zone.

Ed suggested John talk to Kolleen Shelley first. There may already be the capability to do something like this with through the RAWS program.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, May 16, 2005 at 0900. John will reserve meeting space.